

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

on

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Deposition of E. Howard Hunt

Washington, D. C.

PART II - 3:30 pm

Friday, November 3, 1978

Official Reporters to Committees

Mr. Genzman. Could you amplify that last comment?

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I have written in two books, I had a meeting at the request

Mr. Hunt. As I have testified on numerous occasions, and

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of Mr. Nixon's then military aide general who was then Colonel

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Robert Cushman, who had served with me in the CIA some ten

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years previously and who told me at a luncheon that Mr. Nixon

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was the action officer on the National Security Council for the Cuba project and wanted me to go along and if any help

was necessary I should get in touch with Cushman. He gave

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me his private phone number and that was the last I ever heard

Mr. Genzman. How many times have you spoken to Richard

mately 1950 with my first wife when he was still a congressman.

This was on the heels of the Hiss affair. I next saw Mr.

Nixon in Montevideo, where I briefly translated for him at

the embassy before his official translator, General Walters,

I spoke to President Nixon first in approxi-

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of it.

Nixon?

arrived.

sixteen years.

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House. I may have seen him at the White House Christmas party, a possible total of four times over a period of, what, fifteen-

I next saw Mr. Nixon at a social function at the White

Mr. Genzman. What was Mr. Nixon's role during the Bay of Pigs?

Mr. Hunt. I have attempted to describe that. I can only

give it to you as described to me by General Cushman, that he was the action officer on the National Security Council for 3 the Cuba project. 4 Mr. Genzman. Do you have any information that would indicate Mr. Nixon was ever aware of the CIA-Mafia assassination 5 conspiracy directed against Castro? 6 No, but that is certainly not conclusive. 7 What the President's knowledge is -- I have no knowledge that he knew anything one way or the other about it. Mr. Genzman. During the Bay of Pigs period did you at 10 any time learn that your colleague Tony Verona was being con-11 tacted by a member or members of the Mafia? 12 Mr. Hunt. No. 13 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether any Mafia figures were 14 involved in the Bay of Pigs planning or actual invasion? 15 Mr. Hunt. No, I never heard any Mafia presence within the 16 project until I quess the Church committee began bringing it 17 out. 18 Mr. Genzman. Did you know of the CIA's hiring of Mafia 19 figures in an attempt to assassinate Castro during the Bay of 20 Pigs period? 21 Mr. Hunt. No. 22

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Mr. Genzman. Did you know of the CIA hiring of Mafia figures in an attempt to assassinate Castro in a later period?

Mr. Hunt. No, sir. Again, this goes back to my umbrella

answer that I had no knowledge of any organized crime, Mafia involvement with the Bay of Pigs project or targeted against Castro. As I said, my first knowledge came at the time the revelations were made public by the Church committee.

Mr. Genzman. Did you have any knowledge that the CIA was using the Mafia or organized crime in any way during the Bay of Pigs period or in the years following?

Mr. Hunt. No, sir.

Mr. Genzman. When did you first learn of the CIA-Mafia plots against Cuba?

Mr. Hunt. I was in prison at the time. I think they were published by the Pike committee or the Church committee, both.

Mr. Genzman. What year would this have been?

Mr. Hunt. '76.

Mr. Genzman. I would like to ask you about your contacts or relationship with the following people, and I would ask that you give a short comment about your contacts or your relationships, if any:

James O'Connell.

Mr. Hunt. The name is unknown to me.

Mr. Genzman. Robert Maheu.

Mr. Hunt. No contact.

Mr. Genzman. Edward Lansdale.

Mr. Hunt. Well, I knew Ed Lansdale from the time he was

an Air Force lieutenant colonel up through his retirement period -- met him, interviewed him in the White House.

Mr. Genzman. Do you know of any role which he played in the Bay of Pigs invasion or in the CIA-Mafia plots?

Mr. Hunt. No, none. I had not seen Ed Lansdale for many years and then about fall, I think, of 1962 Dick Helms called me in and there was General Lansdale working for MacNamara, I guess, in Defense. He said, "Can you just briefly tell Ed about the Bay of Pigs, and tell him in your opinion what went wrong because he is going to do something else that would have relevance to it."

So I did, in about twenty minutes, and Helms said, "That is the best briefing on the subject," because Helms was not involved in the Bay of Pigs. I didn't see Lansdale for another ten years.

Mr. Genzman. Sheffield Edwards.

Mr. Hunt. Sheff was Director of Security. I had no personal contact with him as such.

Mr. Genzman. I would ask the same questions about the Bay of Pigs or the CIA-Mafia plots with regard to Edwards.

Mr. Hunt. I just never had any contact with him on those subjects.

Mr. Genzman. William Harvey.

Mr. Hunt. I think I officially met Harvey once after he took over the remnants of the Bay of Pigs project. I had no

personal contact with him. I didn't know what he was really involved in until the Church committee began revealing some of these things.

Mr. Genzman. Charles Cabell.

Mr. Hunt. Charles Cabell -- I have no knowledge of his involvement in anything except as portrayed in my book, "Give Us This Day." Cabell came into our war room at an unfortunate moment and delayed the take-off of our strike plans. He was then the Acting Director of CIA.

Mr. Genzman. Did you have any other contacts or any type of relationship with Cabell?

Mr. Hunt. Only when I was on Dulles's staff. I would see the Deputy Director occasionally.

Mr. Genzman. Which years were you on Dulles's staff?

Mr. Hunt. I think that was from late summer of '61 until

Mr. Dulles' retirement, which I think was in '62, if I am not

mistaken.

Mr. Genzman. At this point I would like to ask during which years did you work for the CIA as either an employee, contract employee agent, or as either of any sort?

Mr. Hunt. You mean you want me to indicate classification?

Mr. Genzman. Just the years for any of those possible relationships.

Mr. Hunt. Well, I had some of those relationships but I

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Mr. Hunt.

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Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether Tony Verona knew Edward

Moss?

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Tony and I had kind of an adversary re-Mr. Hunt. No. lationship during the Bay of Pigs period and tended to keep things from each other.

When did you serve in Mexico as a CIA employee?

Mr. Hunt. Let's see, from December 1950 until March '53 I then went down to the Cuba project in the summer of 1960 and stayed for several months and then left.

Mr. Genzman. Is it your testimony that you were never in Mexico in 1963?

Mr. Hunt. Yes, that is my testimony.

Mr. Genzman. Did you have knowledge about the CIA's maintenance of secret photography and wire-tap surveillance operations at foreign embassies in Mexico City?

Mr. Hunt. Oh, yes.

Mr. Genzman. Would you describe these operations.

Mr. Hunt. Well, there was photo surveillance and physical surveillance of the Iron Curtain embassies, the Soviet and Cuban embassies. Of course in 1953 when I left there it was pretty primitive. In those ten years a great deal of enhancement took place. When I went back in 19 -- I have to be careful about this. I went back in 1959. In that 6-year period a great deal of enhancement has taken placeand the physical and photo surveillance of all the target countries, at the

station had increased enormously in size, and of course in that period I was on the outside. I was there as a private U.S. citizen, so I don't really know what they had. But we had sporadic surveillance in the early '50s. I think it was pretty much full time by 1959.

Mr. Genzman. Do you have specific knowledge about the surveillance operations in Mexico City in 1963?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Do you have any knowledge about the CIA's surveillance of Lee Harvey Oswald when he made his trip to Mexico City in the fall of 1963?

Mr. Hunt. Only what I have read in such books, for example, as "Night Watch" by David Phillips.

Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether the CIA ever obtained a photograph or photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald during his visits to the Soviet-Cuban embassies in Mexico in 1963?

Mr. Hunt. I have heard it alleged publicly. I have no knowledge.

Mr. Genzman. I would like to show you an excerpt from your book, "Undercover," your autobiography. This deals with the break-in which you conducted for the CIA in Mexico City at a foreign embassy. In this excerpt you stated that your CIA burglary team flew from Mexico City to Dallas after the job, changed identities in Dallas, and then returned to Washington. Can you tell exactly what this change of identities

in Dallas consisted of?

Mr. Hunt. No, I can't. I didn't, of course, go. I think that was the Guatemala embassy. I think in those days you had to change planes in Dallas. There were no direct flights -- or Fort Worth.

Mr. Genzman. For the record, I am referring to page 88 of your book "Undercover."

Mr. Huht. Well, obviously the team had two sets of identities. They had their own and fictitious identities supplied by the agency.

Mr. Genzman. Was Dallas used as a particular point for such a change of identity operation?

Mr. Hunt. No. It just happened that was the first

American port where the plane landed after leaving Mexico, and

in order to get through customs and immigration they had to

revert to their own identities.

Mr. Genzman. Did this change of identities involve any physical changes?

Mr. Hunt. I have no idea. It was a Staff D team.

Mr. Genzman. Can you explain what you mean by Staff D?

Mr. Hunt. Yes. That was the name associated with the National Security Agency.

Mr. Genzman. Do you have any other knowledge of the use by the CIA of false identities in operations conducted in

Dallas or through Dallas?

Mr. Hunt. No. I was not particularly sensitive to the name Dallas. I could have just as easily have said Fort Worth or Houston, for all I know.

Mr. Genzman. Former CIA Director Richard Helms testified in 1973 before a Senate hearing that Bernard Barker was fired from the agency in late 1966 because of his involvement "in gambling and criminal elements," end quote, in Miami with reference to organized crime. Do you have any knowledge of these alleged Barker connections?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Do you know what Helms was basing his statement on?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. That FBI memorandum written two days after the Watergate break-in, FBI Director Gray stated that Frank Sturgis was, quote, "involved in organized crime activities the details of which are not available," end quote. Do you know what these alleged Sturgis activities were?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Do you know what Gray was basing his statement on?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. I believe you testified earlier that you did not know Frank Sturgis before 1971?

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Mr. Hunt. At the earliest, yes.

Mr. Genzman. Had you ever heard of Frank Sturgis or heard of any of his pseudonyms?

Mr. Hunt. Let me help you on this. There came a time during the Bay of Pigs operation when I heard of a man named Frank Fiorini who had powered a plane with Pedro Diaz Lanz dropping leaflets on Havana, and that was the only reference I had heard to Frank Fiorini. Later on when Barker and I were casting about for people to use in connection with GEMSTONE, Barker mentioned the name Sturgis. And I said, "I don't know anybody named Sturgis."

And he said, "Oh, during previous times he was known as Frank Fiorini. You remember he was Pedro Diaz Lanz."

Mr. Genzman. Have you ever been associated with or involved in any way with organized crime?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Did you ever know Sergio Arcacha Smith Smith of the New Orleans branch of the Cuban Revolutionary Council?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Did you ever receive mail or other communications from him?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Did you ever know Guy Bannister in New Orleans?

Mr. Hunt. No, or anywhere else.

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Mr. Genzman. What was your relationship during the late

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'50s and early 1960s with David Phillips?

I first met Dave when he was a contract Mr. Hunt. agent. He was on the Guatemala project, and at that time we were co-directors on the project. He was the Chief of Propaganda and I was the Chief of Political Action. Later on I saw Dave in Havana, where he was an undercover agent. It was a meeting of chief of stations just before the Castro takeover. I saw Dave again in Mexico City sometime -- I can't remember whether I saw him in 1960 or not, but in any event Dave was a familiar figure in Western Hemisphere operations. Then he showed up on the Cuba project and first he worked in Washington and I worked in the Miami area and then when I left the Miami at the end of things and came up to Washington I worked with Dave for about a week.

Mr. Genzman. Where did you work with Dave Phillips for about a week?

Mr. Hunt. In Washington.

Mr. Genzman. Did you ever meet David Phillips in Dallas?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Did you ever use the alias Knight for a cover name?

Mr. Hunt. For him, for my book, "Give Us This Day."

Mr. Genzman. Did he himself ever use that alias?

1 Mr. Hunt. No. That was assigned officially to Dick 2 Helms -- Knight. He was Fletcher L. Knight. 3 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever use the alias of Bishop? 4 Mr. Hunt. I don't think so. 5 Mr. Genzman. Do you know anyone who did? 6 Mr. Hunt. No. Mr. Genzman. Do you know anyone by the name of Maurice 7 Bishop? 8 Mr. Hunt. No. 9 10 Mr. Genzman. Does the name mean anything to you? I think that on a deposition in a civil matter 11 I was once asked if I knew an individual by that name. 12 the name was given to me as Morris. M-o-r-r-i-s. 13 Mr. Genzman. Do you know anyone who ever used the name 14 Morris Bishop? 15 Mr. Hunt. No. 16 Mr. Genzman. Does that name mean anything to you? 17 Mr. Hunt. No. 18 Mr. Genzman. Within the last six months or a year have 19 you spoken with David Phillips? 20 I haven't spoken with Dave. We exchanged some Mr. Hunt. 21 letters -- I haven't spoken with him on the phone at all. 22 think I was still in prison in '76 when his book came out and 23 we had an exchange of correspondence about it. I don't think 24 we have spoken at all in many years but we had an exchange of

correspondence in about '76.

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Copeland follows
Dempsey
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(At four o'clock, Mr. Rubin left the hearing room.)

Mr. Genzman. In any event, contacts with David Phillips, was the name Maurice Bishop mentioned?

Mr. Hunt. No, there have been no recent contacts with him.

Mr. Genzman. Let me rephrase. In any of your last contacts with David Phillips, was the name Maurice Bishop men-

Mr. Hunt. No; nor at any time.

Mr. Genzman. How and when did you first meet Bernard Barker?

Mr. Hunt. Barker was assigned to me in Miami, when I went down there to take over the Revolutionary Democratic Front in the fall of 1960, I guess it was. He was identified to me by the man I replaced as a Cuban who had been an asset of the Havana station, and he was going to be my general, de facto.

Mr. Genzman. Did he continue in this relationship with you during the period of preparation for the Bay of Pigs' invasion?

Mr. Hunt. He did.

Mr. Genzman. And after the Bay of Pigs' invasion?

Mr. Hunt. I left the Miami area shortly before the Bay of Pigs' invasion, and I think Mr. Barker stayed on. Later, I tried to help him regain his American citizenship through the Office of the General Counsel of the CIA. I next heard Mr. Barker had been redeployed, as it were, to Chicago for

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training and employment by the agency since he and many other

Cubans were surplus to agency needs at that time.

I sort of lost track of him, and it wasn't until I came in the Miami area in, I think, 1971 that I resumed contact with Mr. Barker.

Mr. Genzman. Did you know Pedro Diaz Lanz?

Mr. Hunt. I met Pedro on one occasion fully described in my book, Give Us This Day.

Mr. Genzman. Did Bernard Barker introduce you to Pedro Diaz Lanz?

Mr. Hunt. More properly he introduced Pedro Diaz Lanz to me.

Mr. Genzman. Could you give the exact details of this meeting?

Mr. Hunt. Yes, although they are a matter of record in my book. I knew, as I mentioned, Pedro Diaz Lanz' name from the Frank Fiorini episode of the leaflets. Getting into the preconvent period of the Bay of Pigs, I heard our Air Force, Cuban exile air force, needed more pilots. Barker mentioned that Diaz Lanz was living in abject poverty, had a lot of debts and his wife had just had a baby, or was about to have a baby, and that Diaz Lanz, as a former head of the rebel air force, would be a good candidate.

I said bring him to talk to me. He did. I arranged that Pedro be given a stipend by the Revolutionary Democratic Front,

and it was to take care of his immediate bills, get food in his house, and recommended to Dave Phillips, I think it was, that Diaz Lanz run leaflet flights for Dave Phillips' particular interests, and I think there was a good deal of resistance to that in Washington, and about that time I left the area and never knew what happened to Diaz Lanz.

Mr. Genzman. How did you introduce yourself to Pedro Diaz Lanz?

Mr. Hunt. 'I didn't. He was introduced to me. This was Eduardo.

Mr. Genzman. Was your conversation with Diaz Lanz in English or Spanish?

Mr. Hunt. I imagine it was in Spanish. I don't know whether Pedro speaks English at all. I normally spoke Spanish with the Latinos.

Mr. Genzman. Do you recall anything more about the contents of that conversation?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Did your relationship with Diaz Lanz ever involve any B-25 aircraft?

Mr. Hunt. Yes.

Would you explain the details?

Mr. Hunt. Again, I published the whole thing in my book, Give Us This Day. And he had an aircraft available. It was under a sheriff's lien. I suggested to Dave Phillips and others

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that the lien be reduced or eliminated and the aircraft outfitted and used for propaganda overflights. 2 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever arrange for funds for Pedro Diaz Lanz so that he could effectuate the release of any equipment which was held by the U.S. Customs? 5 Customs, no. My impression was there was a Mr. Hunt. 6 sheriff's lien on the aircraft. 7 Mr. Genzman. Were you aware that the plane was not owned 8 by Pedro Diaz Lanz? I think in subsequent years Frank Sturgis has 10 indicated to me that he was part-owner of the aircraft. didn't know that at the time. Mr. Genzman. Did you have any knowledge of Sturgis or his role in any of these matters at the time? Mr. Hunt. No, except as heretofore described. Mr. Genzman. Were you ever involved on behalf of the CIA in an investigation into allegations of CIA assistance to Pedo Diaz Lanz in the release of the B-25 aircraft in 1961? Mr. Hunt. No, I didn't know it was ever released. Mr. Genzman. Did you ever question Barker or Diaz Lanz concerning allegations of CIA assistance to Pedro Diaz Lanz? Mr. Hunt. I don't know what you mean by CIA assistance.

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22 I hoped that the agency had assisted him, that they had released 23 the plane and had utilized the aircraft, which was a scarce 24 type. 25

Mr. Genzman. I was specifically referring to the aircraft. 1 I never heard any controversy about it. Mr. Hunt. Yes. 2 I didn't think it had been done. 3 Were you aware of the individual who made Mr. Genzman. the allegations? 5 Mr. Hunt. Well, sir, the allegations being that CIA helped Diaz Lanz? 7 Mr. Genzman. The allegations of CIA assistance to Diaz 8 Lanz to effectuate the release of the aircraft in 1961? 9 Mr. Hunt. Again, I didn't know that the CIA had done it. 10 I had recommended it, but I didn't know it took place. 11 don't know the name of anybody who would make the allegation 12 that would really have an interest in the matter. 13 Mr. Genzman. Are you stating that you didn't know Frank 14 Sturgis had made the allegation? 15 Mr. Hunt. Allegation is a pejorative. I don't to this 16 day know either that the aircraft was released, that CIA 17 provided money for it as I recommended, or that Sturgis talked 18 about it at all. I talked about it with Sturgis a little, 19 but I don't think I even learned from him that the aircraft 20 had been released or used during the Bay of Pigs' operation. 21 When did you talk to Sturgis about this? Mr. Genzman. 22 Mr. Hunt. I think this was when we were in Danbury. Our 23 bunks were beside each other. It was the first tîme I had a 24 chance to talk to Frank. He was depressed. I used to talk to

1 him a good deal. He said, gee, Pedro is such a great guy, but 2 blah, blah, blah. Mr. Genzman. What was the year? 3 Mr. Hunt. I think it was 1973 when we were in Danbury 4 in Federal prison together. 5 Mr. Genzman. In 1961, did you ever question Pedro Diaz 6 Lanz or Bernard Barker about Sturgis or about the person who 7 later turned out to be Sturgis? Mr. Hunt. No. 9 Mr. Genzman. Aside from this aircraft incident, was there 10 any other connection between you and Sturgis before you actu-11 ally knew Sturgis? 12 Mr. Hunt. No, I just had knowledge that Mr. Fiorini was 13 the co-pilot of that plane. There was no connection. 14 a collateral piece of information on a man named Fiorini, known 15 as a soldier of fortune in the area. Years later, I was to 16 learn, 1971 or 1972, that Frank Fiorini became Frank Sturgis, 17 who was about to be introduced to me by Bernard Barker. 18 Mr. Genzman. What was Operation Forty? 19 Mr. Hunt. I don't know. 20 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever know of a boat named Cusa? 21 Mr. Hunt. No. 22 Mr. Genzman. Do you have any knowledge about CIA training 23 operations in New Orleans in 1961? 24

Mr. Hunt. In New Orleans; no. Are you talking about Lake

Pontchartrain? That is something else.

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Lake Pontchartrain, Houma, Louisiana? Mr. Genzman.

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Well, part of the exile navy was trained Mr. Hunt. Yes.

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up at that area; that is all I know. And some of the LSTs

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were maneuvered around the lake, and I think brought down

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finally.

Mr. Genzman. Let me ask you about the locations Belle

Chase and Covington.

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Mr. Hunt. The names don't mean anything to me.

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Mr. Genzman. Could you speculate as to why Pedro Diaz

Lanz would deny ever having met you?

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You mean he has denied it? He is one of the Mr. Hunt.

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few Cubans who has denied it. Most Cubans claim they knew me,

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knew me intimately, during the Bay of Pigs. It is refreshing.

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No, I don't, except that I have been in a lot of trouble,

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and I don't think Pedro would gain anything from associating

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himself with me in any way. Too, there is the aspect he is

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probably a pretty proud individual, and he was first brought to my attention as literally a charity welfare case, although

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I had ulterior interests in him as a pilot, and I think he

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realized it, and he doesn't want to look back on those days

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when he didn't have enough food in his house for his wife and

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Mr. Genzman. Did Pedro Diaz Lanz ever work for the CIA?

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Mr. Hunt. I don't know.

child. Again, that is speculation.

Mr. Genzman. Did Pedro Diaz Lanz ever receive money from 1 the CIA? 2 Mr. Hunt. Well, as I have stated a little earlier, I 3 arranged that money be given to him to settle his immediate 4 needs, and beyond that I have no knowledge of any money that was 5 paid to him. I recommended again that he be taken under the 6 Cuban exile air force at the appropriate rank and be paid the 7 normal stipend paid Cuban exiles. 8 Mr. Genzman. Are you testifying that the money you arranged 9 for him to receive after you had first met him was CIA money? 10 Mr. Hunt. Had to be. Again, I don't know that it was 11 paid. I assume it was paid. 12 Mr. Genzman. When did the CIA activity at Lake Pontchartrain 13 cease, to your knowledge? 14 I have no idea. It was a maritime operation. Mr. Hunt. 15 I was political; I had nothing to do with the military. 16 handled the political aspects of it, the government in exile. 17 Mr. Genzman. Were you ever involved in the Frente 18 Revolucionario Democratico? 19 Mr. Hunt. Intimately? 20 Mr. Genzman. Did you have a role in the formation of this 21 organization? 22 Mr. Hunt. Yes. 23 Mr. Genzman. Could you give us details about the formation 24 of this organization? 25

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Mr. Hunt. It is covered in great detail in my book, Give
Us This Day.

Briefly, when I was brought into the project, I was told I was to be the political liaison with this government in exile, and we met at the Hotel Ambassador in New York City, and I met the members of the junta at that time, including Manuel Artime for the first time, and they and I worked out a rationale, a modus operandi. I approved their articles of incorporation, as it were.

Mr. Genzman. What year are you referring to?

Mr. Hunt. Summer of 1960. And told them that we would be moving down to Mexico City from there, as indeed we did.

Mr. Genzman. What were the major activities of this organization?

Mr. Hunt. Well, it sponsored all of the military activities; it dealt with friendly governments through me. I was the liaison between the United States Government and the Cuban exile movement, and what can I say? It did the normal activities of a government in exile, its representatives, its military forces, and so forth.

Mr. Genzman. Did the CIA sponsor this organization?

Mr. Hunt. Oh, yes. Through me. I set their budget and exercised a degree of control that one could exercise over the spending of the moneys that we provided.

Mr. Genzman. When did CIA sponsorship of this organization

end?

Mr. Hunt. Well, the new frontier came in and decided that the FRD was too archaic; it wasn't progressive enough; and it would be supplemented by a new breed of politicians from Cuba, many of whom had arrived recently from a close embrace with Castro.

I was unwilling to bring these elements into the FRD and requested reassignment to Washington, which was granted me. My successors developed the Cuban Revolutionary Committee out of the ashes of the FRD.

Mr. Genzman. What was the date of the formation of the Cuban Revolutionary Committee?

Mr. Hunt. I would place it about a month before the invasion; I would put it in March sometime, of 1961.

Mr. Genzman. Did you testify that you handled the formation of this organization?

Mr. Hunt. I don't think I dîd. I think that was your question. I was being as responsive as I could. What I am saying is that most of the people that I was dealing with in the FRD went on into the CRC, which was a broadened group. I, however, had no part of that. And feeling -- well, we don't need to get into that. In any case, I came back to Washington, and a successor of mine took over the liaison for the CRC.

Mr. Genzman. Did you think that the FRD was archaic?
Mr. Hunt. No. I thought it was constitutional.

Mr. Genzman. Did the CIA sponsor the CRC? 1 2 To the best of my knowledge. Mr. Hunt. Mr. Genzman. Do you know how long this sponsorship lasted 3 Mr. Hunt. Very brief. I would say two months or so. 4 Mr. Genzman. What was the relationship between the CRC and 5 its New Orleans branch? 6 I have no idea. I didn't know they had a 7 New Orleans branch. 8 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever have contact with the Cuban 9 revolutionary delegates? 10 Mr. Hunt. I don't know who they would be. The name 11 doesn't mean anything to me. 12 Mr. Genzman. Let me give you some names and have you 13 comment. 14 Luis Rabel? 15 Mr. Hunt. Unknown. 16 Mr. Genzman. Serigio Arcacha Smith? 17 Mr. Hunt. Unknown. 18 Mr. Genzman. Arnesto Rodriguez? 19 Mr. Hunt. Unknown. 20 Mr. Genzman. Manuel Gil? 21 Mr. Hunt. Unknown. 22 Mr. Genzman. Frank Bartes? 23 Mr. Hunt. Unknown. 24 Mr. Genzman. Augustin Guitart? 25

Spell it. Mr. Hunt. 1 G-u-i-t-a-r-t (spelling). 2 Mr. Genzman. Mr. Hunt. No. 3 Mr. Genzman. Frank Delabar? 4 Mr. Hunt. Never heard of him. 5 Mr. Genzman. Would you repeat how you knew about the Lake 6 Pontchartrain operations? 7 Mr. Hunt. Because I was present at the briefings at 8 headquarters when Mr. Dulles and other high officials of the 9 agency were briefed on the project and status of each aspect 10 of the operation. 11 Mr. Genzman. Who was in charge of the operation? 12 Mr. Hunt. Who was in charge of the paramilitary opera-13 tions? I have forgotten his name. 14 Mr. Genzman. I would like to ask you about your knowledge 15 of or involvement in some of the following: Alpha 66? 16 Mr. Hunt. Just a name to me. I have heard it; that is 17 all. 18 Mr. Genzman. Did you know Antonio Carlos Veciano 19 Blanch? 20 Mr. Hunt. No. 21 Mr. Genzman. Movimento Revolucionario del Pueblo? 22 Mr. Hunt. No. 23 Jose Miro Cardona? Mr. Genzman. 24 Mr. Hunt. Very well. 25

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          Mr. Genzman. Could you give the details of your relation-
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     ship?
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          Mr. Hunt.
                     Yes. Dr. Miro was a former, I think, chief
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     justice of the Cuban Supreme Court, a very distinguished bar-
     rister. He had been counselor-ambassador to Spain and had
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     taken refuge in the Argentine Embassy. I had him brought up
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     from Argentina, when I thought the time was right, and inserted
     in the FRD leadership as the compromise chief.
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         Mr. Genzman. How about Agrupacion Monte Cristi?
                    The Monte Cristi had delegates in the FRD.
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         Mr. Hunt.
                                                                  Ι
    can't remember the name of the representative.
11
         Mr. Genzman. Did you know Jorge Nobregas?
12
         Mr. Hunt.
                   No.
13
         Mr. Genzman.
                       The next organization is JURE.
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         Mr. Hunt. I have heard of it, but the name doesn't mean
15
    anything to me. I think it is an acronym.
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         Mr. Genzman. Did you know Sylvia Odio?
17
         Mr. Hunt. No.
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         Mr. Genzman. Rogelio Cisneros Diaz?
19
         Mr. Hunt.
                    No.
20
         Mr. Genzman. Duney Perez Alamo?
21
         Mr. Hunt.
                    No.
22
         Mr. Genzman. Did you know Luis Bal Cuena?
23
         Mr. Hunt.
                    No.
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         Mr. Genzman. The next organization is Directorio
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Revolucionario Estudiantil? 1 The DRE. Dave Phillips ran that for us. Mr. Hunt. 2 Albert Muller is still in prison over there. But that is 3 classified, I think. He was the head of it. He went into Cuba and was captured. 5 Mr. Genzman. Who are you speaking of? 6 Mr. Hunt. Albert M-u-l-l-e-r (spelling). 7 Mr. Genzman. Did you testify he went into Cuba and was 8 captured? 9 Mr. Hunt. Yes. 10 Mr. Genzman. Did you know Carlos Bringuier? 11 Mr. Hunt. No. 12 Mr. Genzman. The next organization is Movimento Democrata 13 Cristiano. 14 The Christian Democratic Movement. I have heard 15 of it. It had a delegate in the FRD. 16 Mr. Genzman. Did you know Laureano Batista Falla? 17 Mr. Hunt. No. 18 Mr. Genzman. Did you know Victor Paneque? 19 Mr. Hunt. No. 20 Mr. Genzman. The next organization is Movimento 21 Revolucionario Treinta de Noviembre. 22 Mr. Hunt. Thirtieth of November. No, I never heard that. 23 Mr. Genzman. Carlos Rodriguez Quesada? 24 Mr. Hunt. No.

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Mr. Genzman. Mike McLaney?

Mr. Hunt. I met Mike McLaney once at Joe's Stone Crabs in Miami. He was then dating a girlfriend of a friend of mine. That is all. This was sometime in 1960.

Mr. Genzman. Max Gorman Gonzalez?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Do you know Orlando Bosch?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. During the time period 1962 to 1965, where were you stationed specifically?

Mr. Hunt. After Allen left, I joined Tracy Barnes' new Domestic Operations Division, which should have been called the commercial operations division, and I worked for them in Washington until sometime in 1965, when we left for Spain under cover. I think the division had three different locations while I was with them.

Mr. Genzman. What were the details of your undercover operation in Spain?

Mr. Hunt. Very little. I spoke Spanish. I wanted to get out of Washington. I was looking to Spain as a retirement post. Helms thought it would be a good idea that I get out because my name had become included in the Library of Congress card system. I had written numerous books under pseudonyms and somebody made a mistake and put my true name down. Helms thought this was a bad idea. I thought it was a great idea to

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Did you know Rolando Cubela? Mr. Genzman.

get to Spain. My specific purpose for the record -- this is classified, isn't it?

Mr. Genzman. Yes.

Mr. Hunt. Okay -- was to develop working relationships to the extent possible with people who would be in a successor government to Franco.

Mr. Genzman. Have you ever heard of AMLASH, a cryptonym? Yes, but only when the Church revelations Mr. Hunt. began.

Do you have any knowledge of the AMLASH Mr. Genzman. operations, or AMLASH-1?

Mr. Hunt. No. Let me interject this, if I may, that at the time I left the Bay of Pigs' operation in the wake of the failure of the Bay of Pigs and joined Allen Dulles' staff, it was principally to help Allen explain some of the things that went on that he hadn't known before in his exalted position, and it was made abundantly clear to me in a very pleasant way that having been stained with the failure of the Bay of Pigs that I was to have nothing further to do with Cuban operations, and that it would be probably a good many years before I could expect reassignment to Latin America, if ever.

So my point is, from 1961 on, I had no current knowledge of anything that was going on in Latin America, no personal knowledge.

Mr. Hunt. No.

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Mr. Genzman. Did you ever come into contact with AMLASH-1 or other persons connected with the AMLASH operation while you were stationed in Spain?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Were you ever stationed in France?

Mr. Hunt. By CIA?

Mr. Genzman. Yes.

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Did you ever participate in or have any knowledge of CIA assassination conspiracies against Castro which were directed from Spain during the period 1964 to 1967?

Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. Were you in Spain working for the agency during the period 1964 to 1967?

Mr. Hunt. I think it was summer of 1965 to summer of 1966, to the best of my recollection.

Mr. Genzman. What were your duties in Spain?

Mr. Hunt. I described them a little earlier.

Mr. Genzman. Would you repeat your description of your duties?

Mr. Hunt. Yes. I was supposed to attempt to develop working relationships, confidential relationships with Spaniards of position who might some day form or be in the government that would be successor to that of General Franco.

Mr. Genzman. Thank you. I am sorry I missed your answer 1 2 earlier. 3 A Senate investigation determined that your close friend, Manuel Artime, was involved in Castro assassination plans in 4 Spain during the period 1964 to 1967. Were you in contact 5 with him in Spain at that time? 6 No. Mr. Hunt. 7 Mr. Genzman. Did you have any knowledge of these plans? 8 Mr. Hunt. Not at that time; no. 9 When did you first find out about these Mr. Genzman. 10 plans? 11 Mr. Hunt. When the Church Committee began to expose 12 them. 13 Mr. Genzman. Is it your testimony --14 Mr. Hunt. We are talking about the post-Bay of Pigs 15 plan, right? 16 I am speaking of the time period 1964 to Mr. Genzman. 17 1967. 18 Mr. Hunt. Okay, my answer stands. 19 Mr. Genzman. Is it your testimony that Artime never 20 talked to you about these plans? 21 That is correct, at any time. Mr. Hunt. 22 Mr. Genzman. Does the name Terrence Crabanan mean anything 23 to you? 24 Would you spell that? Mr. Hunt. 25

Mr. Genzman. C-r-a-b-a-n-a-n (spelling).

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Mr. Hunt. No, I don't know him. 1 Mr. Genzman. Who were your superiors during the time you 2 were working for the CIA in Spain? 3 Mr. Hunt. Mr. Thomas Karamessines. 4 Mr. Genzman. Did he specifically give you your assign-5 ments? 6 Yes. Mr. Hunt. 7 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of the allegation that the 8 CIA conducted a substantial investigation during 1974 and 1975 9 to determine what you were doing in Spain during that period 10 and reportedly concluded it was not possible to determine your 11 assignment there? 12 Mr. Hunt. No, I wasn't. All they had to do was ask 13 Tom Karamessines. He was the Deputy Director of Plans. 14 must have asked the wrong man. Helms certainly knew. 15 Mr. Genzman. Did you know George Robreno, in Spain? 16 Mr. Hunt. No. 17 Mr. Genzman. Did you know El Loco? 18 Mr. Hunt? No. 19 Mr. Genzman. Did you know El Mago? 20 21

Mr. Hunt. No. These are all street names, I gather, sinister people.

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Do you think that the agency would have Mr. Genzman. full records of what your duties in Spain were during this period?

|| for many years.

Mr. Genzman. Do you recall in what name the policy was issued?

Mr. Hunt. Well, can we get to the heart of your question?

Are you inquiring whether in Spain I took out a life insurance

policy I hadn't previously had?

Mr. Genzman. My question was whether you took out an additional life insurance policy in Spain, and I would broaden the question to ask you in what names you have taken out life insurance policies?

Mr. Hunt. E. Howard Hunt, Howard Hunt, Everett H. Hunt, Jr., depending upon the will of the particular insurance company.

Now, I remember that before I left for Spain, I think I made application with Mutual of Omaha, or United of Omaha, for enhanced amounts of insurance on my life. The agent quoted one figure, and when I got to Spain, I got a communication from him, saying that because I had been recently hospitalized for ulcers, they would have to up the premium, and how did I feel about that. I wrote back and said I didn't like it, and I think I cancelled that policy and took out a different one to supplant the one I had applied for. That is my only recollection of insurance deals in that period.

Mr. Genzman. Did you know Victor Espinosa?

Mr. Hunt. No. You asked me that before.

Mr. Genzman. Did you know Victor Espinosa in Spain?

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Mr. Hunt. No.

Mr. Genzman. To your knowledge, was the AMLASH operation ever subject to security problems, specifically leaks by the participants in the operation?

Mr. Hunt. I have no knowledge of the AMLASH operation beyond what has been revealed to the press. Again, I had nothing to do with those things from 1961 on.

Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether the AMLASH operation was ever subject to security problems or counter-intelligence threats relating to the Spanish intelligence services?

Mr. Hunt. I had no knowledge.

Mr. Genzman. Do you recall where you were located from April 17, 1961, to June 30, 1961?

Mr. Hunt. Physically located?

Mr. Genzman. Yes.

Mr. Hunt. Well, probably at headquarters here in Washington. You mean where my home was?

Mr. Genzman. My question was addressed to your functions with the CIA.

Mr. Hunt. Well, upon my withdrawal from the FRD connection in, I guess, early April of 1961, I came to Washington to work with Dave Phillips, or for Dave Phillips at headquarters. At that time, I had a house on Tracy Place.

Mr. Genzman. Did you ever travel to Europe during this period?

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Mr. Hunt. During the couple-of-month period; no.
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          Mr. Genzman. Did you ever arrange travel documents for
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     Bernard Barker?
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          Mr. Hunt. What do you mean by travel documents? I don't
  4
     know what you mean by travel documents. Did I buy him a
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     ticket?
  6
          Mr. Genzman.
                        Any type of travel document.
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          Mr. Hunt. During the Watergate era, sure.
 8
          Mr. Genzman.
                         Do you recall the details?
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          Mr. Hunt. No. I arranged for Barker to travel back and
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     forth from Washington to Miami on numerous occasions.
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         Mr. Genzman.
                         Did you ever travel with McCord?
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         Mr. Hunt.
                    No.
13
                        I would like to ask you whether you know
         Mr. Genzman.
14
    any of the following individuals: David Ferrie?
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         Mr. Hunt.
                    No.
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         Mr. Genzman. Mitchell Werbell?
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         Mr. Hunt. No.
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         Mr. Genzman. Clare Booth Luce?
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         Mr. Hunt. No.
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         Mr. Genzman. William Pawley?
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         Mr. Hunt. I met Bill Pawley -- he is now dead, by the
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    way -- during the early days of the Bay of Pigs' operation.
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         Mr. Genzman. Could you detail your relationship with
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him?

Mr. Hunt. It would have been either United of Omaha or 1 Mutual of Omaha. I still have it today. 2 I don't think I 3 cancelled it. Is there a suggestion it was issued in a name other than 4 my true name? I am not trying to pry. I am trying to be 5 forthcoming. Mr. Genzman. Would you answer that question again? Mr. Hunt. I will repeat the question. What I am trying 8 to do is determine if you are interested in finding out whether I have ever had an insurance policy issued in a name other 10 than my true name. 11 Since you have asked that question, I Mr. Genzman. 12 would ask you to answer it. Mr. Hunt. My answer is no. Mr. Genzman. Fine. We will go off the record. (Discussion off the record.) Mr. Genzman. During the fall of 1960 and the spring of 1961, did you have any dealings with Antonio Verona? Mr. Hunt. Antonio Verona? Yes. I dealt with Tony right up until the Bay of Pigs on almost a daily basis. Mr. Genzman. Do you have knowledge of Antonio Verona's dealings in any plots to assassinate Castro involving under-

Mr. Hunt. You have asked me the question previously in

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world figures?

just that form, and I will repeat my answer: No

Mr. Genzman. I have no further questions.

At this time, I would like to offer you five minutes to clarify any previous answers or expand on any previous answers, or give any additional information which you feel is relevant to the investigation of this committee.

Mr. Hunt. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee and to be interrogated as extensively and broadly as has been accomplished here this afternoon. I think if I had an hour or so, I might go through some of these magazine articles and suggest that you ask me questions related to that, but I think we have covered the area pretty thoroughly, and if you are satisfied, then I am satisfied.

It is very hard to prove a negative, you know. I didn't have anything to do with the assassination, didn't know anything about it. It is unfortunate everything I went through in Watergate has bled over into a great national tragedy, and that was the assassination of President Kennedy, and I think that the nation is willing to forgive Watergate now. I certainly think I have paid my penalty for being involved in it, but to have this new stain attached to me, relatively new, that is in the last two or three years, this assassination of the President is something really that the nation is never going to forgive. I am afraid I will be forever stained with some kind of suspicion that I had something to do with it. It is very, very

unfair.

I did my time for Watergate. I shouldn't have to do additional time and suffer additional losses for something I had nothing to do with.

Mr. Genzman. I would like to thank you again for your appearance here today, and if at any time you have any additional information you feel would be useful to the committee, feel free to contact us.

Mr: Hunt. I will do that, and thank you very much for the courteous treatment I have received.

(Whereupon, at 4:45 p.m., the deposition was concluded.)